

ceeds of their Crown lands? What is the word of such politicians worth? What security can an Act of Parliament give, which is at the mercy of such men? None whatever. The people who, in less than six months, have changed from rabid Provincialists to determined opponents of Provincialism, are not to be trusted. An Act of Parliament passed by such men is not worth the paper on which it is printed—the security it affords as to the destination of the monies accruing from public lands is futile. It is the interest of the people of Wellington, of all the Provinces in the North Island, and Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland, to repeal this clause which purports to secure the land funds of Otago and Canterbury, and nothing is more certain than that they will ultimately do what is for their interest.

Canterbury and Otago may regard themselves, therefore, for the present at least—no one can guess what the remote future may bring—as specially set apart for the purpose of producing revenue to provide the other Provinces with the means of paying their debts and building their railways. Their land fund, which by solemn compact, is rightfully theirs alone, will be made common property immediately, and their surplus customs revenue will be sent to Wellington never to return even in part.

All this may be eminently wise and just. This is not the question we are now discussing. But we place these things before the electors for their consideration. What we have stated are facts and probable eventualities. If the people are content to have abolition pure and simple—if they are prepared to chance the future—if they prefer to be governed from the North Island, rather than by themselves in their own Provinces, well and good; there is nothing more to be said on the subject.

But if not, they had better be up and doing, there is no time to be lost, and they should reject during the elections now near at hand, all candidates who voted for the Abolition Bill, and all who are in favour of it.

#### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It was the intention of His Lordship the Bishop to have discontinued the collection in connection with the Christian Brothers Fund until after the holidays, but it was found that large numbers of subscribers came on last Sunday prepared to pay the first instalment of amounts promised, and the collectors find that to discontinue the list would prove an inconvenience to subscribers, therefore, His Lordship has decided that the gentlemen who have been kind enough to act as collectors will continue to attend, for the purpose of receiving money on behalf of this fund. Our readers will be pleased to learn that arrangements have been made for commencing the Christian Brothers' School, and we may expect to see these buildings completed during the forthcoming holidays.

THE Lynch family have been doing their best to draw the patronage of the Dunedin public during the past week by discoursing some of the sweetest music. The great novelty of music produced by bell-ringing is a feature in their entertainment that should establish a desire with all who are admirers of music to see and hear them. It is not every day that one has an opportunity of seeing such wonderful feats of peculiar dexterity that are displayed in the manipulation of these hand-bells; and, independent of the beautiful and familiar music to which we have been treated, it is worth all the money to see the performers working at the bells. Although we are of opinion that the comic element of the performance is somewhat at variance with the high-class character of the first part of the programme, there can be no doubt as to the appreciation of the audience. Each evening this part of the programme elicits loud applause, and the common verdict of all who witness the comic business of Mr. Keely is summed up in the phrase peculiar to the colonies—immense. We see by an advertisement, which will be found in another column, that Mr. Lynch has made arrangements to visit the goldfields, and we are in a position to promise our readers in those districts a genuine treat.

At Mr. Reynolds' meeting considerable amusement was caused by a question being put asking, first: If Mr. Reynolds could inform the meeting as to what was the annual appropriation for the New Zealand University? The answer was, £3000. Whereupon enquiry was made, Where is this University to be found? Here the questioner put on a look, which plainly said, I have you now!—whilst poor Reynolds looked sheepish for a while, and then replied, That he could not give the locality of the institution, or say whether it was really in existence or not, although he was aware that £3000 was the annual appropriation.

THE fifth annual meeting of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society is appointed to take place in Melbourne on the third Wednesday of February, 1876. Business of more than usual importance to the New Zealand Branches is to be brought forward, the proposition to abolish District Boards being the most important. There is no doubt that the present system is unnecessarily expensive, and perhaps the Society would be better without them, but it will be necessary for the branches in New Zealand to express an opinion on the subject. We believe there is a general desire to have the branches consolidated under one governing power, and it is stated that the Society could be governed by the Executive directory at one-half the expence which it takes at present under the District Board system. However, if the Society is fully represented at the next annual meet-

ing there is no doubt a system of government will be devised that will be acceptable to all the branches.

At a meeting of the Council of the Acclimatisation Society, held on Tuesday afternoon, a report was received from the manager, showing the number of trout which had been distributed during the season up to the present time. The total was 9750 fish and 7800 eggs, sent to various localities within and beyond the Province. A well-executed photograph by Messrs. Burton Bros. of the salmon trout recently caught in the harbor was laid on the table, together with a report by Professor Coughtrey of the contents of the fish's stomach. The following resolution was passed:—"That an effort be made to procure, from America, the eggs of the East Coast salmon and of some of the most valuable of the American Lake fish, and with that object the sum of £100 be forwarded to the United States' Commissioners of Fisheries with a request that he would forward a consignment of its eggs to the Society. The chairman was requested to write to the Salmon Commissioners of Tasmania with a view to ascertaining what facilities the Society would obtain during the ensuing winter for obtaining salmon trout eggs, and at the same time for searching the Branches of the Derwent for the eggs of the salmon. It was also resolved that a letter should be addressed to his Honor the Superintendent, requesting him to reserve from sale as many road lines as possible which run along the banks of the streams into which fish have been turned.

At the Harbor Board's fortnightly meeting, held on Tuesday, the Engineer reported that the work of deepening and widening the channel off Rattray street wharf is gradually deepening, and that in the course of the present month at least 500ft of additional berthing, affording a depth of 9ft at low water, will be available alongside the new wharf; that several contracts had been prepared for approval, comprising wharf extension, removal of training wall, additional punts and conditions upon which tenders will be received for iron hull for dredge New Era, and that the plates for the new dredge arrived per Zealandia, and that the work of preparing them for use in the hull was being proceeded with. The Inspector reported that during November the two dredges had lifted 9877 cubic yards of stuff at a total cost of £582, which was much above the average caused by repairs, etc. The Secretary furnished a return showing the work done by the dredges during the past five months. In July 9636 cubic yards were dredged at a cost of £521; in August, 6766 yards at a cost of £435; in September, 7531 yards at a cost of £504; in October (five weeks), 9877 yards at a cost of £531; and in November, 9877 yards at a cost of £582. Total, £2575. On Mr. Tewsley's motion, it was decided to levy wharfage rated under the Board's Act of last session in place of the dues imposed under the Superintendent's delegated powers.

During the past week, the revenue officers of Dunedin have been doing a large business. At last there seems to be a probability of putting a stop to sly grog selling. It is a notorious fact, that from the beginning, Dunedin has, in one way or another, been the special patron of this trade, and in spite of the strenuous efforts of its police to confine the selling of drink within the limits of the law, so many obstacles have at all times been raised up, that it has hitherto been impossible to do so. A batch of convictions may tell a tale.

OPPOSITION is the life of trade. So say the X. Y. Z. Company, who, having recently come over from Tasmania, have started business as butchers, and are advertising at prices calculated to cause a panic among the Dunedin butchers. Rumour says that the trade generally are determined to take a stand against these new invaders, and combine, with a view of driving them back to the island from whence they came. Of course all this means cheap meat—at anyrate for a season. 'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

ANOTHER deputation have waited upon his Honor the Superintendent, and presented a petition signed by 219 householders out of 269 in the district, asking that South Dunedin might be proclaimed a municipality with as little delay as possible, and in accordance with the terms of the petition lodged and gazetted some months ago. Mr. Maloney, who was one of the deputation, explained that only fifteen householders had actually refused to sign the petition.—His Honor said that as there was now evidently a large majority in favor of the municipality being granted, there was no doubt that the wishes of the petitioners would be acceded to. The matter had proved to be a troublesome affair, and he was very glad they had got to the end of it. In consequence of the counter-petitions which had been presented, Mr. Sessions had to be appointed to visit the householders for the purpose of ascertaining the real facts of the case.—Mr. Maloney said that originally almost all the residents were in favor of a municipality, but the trouble was produced by people outside who meddled with the affairs of the district. He said that he now regretted that anything had been said at the meeting at Forbury to hurt his Honor's feelings.—His Honor said that he did not think that there had existed any occasion for the strong language used at that meeting. He would lay the matter before the Executive, and if they approved of it, the municipality would be at once proclaimed.

We are glad to see that some of the shanties which disgraced for so long a period the entrance to our city are being removed. We refer to the wretched looking places of residence that existed this side of Pelichet Bay Station, and which could not fail to give visitors a very bad impression of Dunedin upon their first arrival. Still a large number remain, and the sooner they, too, are removed to make way for buildings of a more respectable and pretentious character the better. We trust some day to see the site of these wretched-looking hovels occupied by stately warehouses and stores.

The agent of Ilma di Murska, the songstress, was a passenger by the s.s. Hero. The great singer is expected to arrive in New Zealand early in January. A musical treat of a high order may therefore be looked forward to by the people of Dunedin.

THE Province of Canterbury, up to the present time, shows by far the greatest amount of political activity in preparation for the coming general election. It is more than probable that every seat in